

BOOK REVIEW

A new revision of a popular manual of trees¹

The fourth edition of Schaffner's Field Manual of Trees is but little changed from the third edition. The first edition appeared in 1914. The book contains keys to trees in summer, based on the leaves with some use of bud, twig and pith characters; in winter, based on twig and bud characters; and to flowers and "other characters present at the time of flowering." This last key will probably be used infrequently, as the others serve the purpose of determining the trees admirably. In the appendix is a brief key to woods. The descriptions of genera and species are concise and complete enough for the purpose for which the book is intended.

The arrangement of the families and genera follows the Besseyan system as modified by Schaffner. Thus the trees fall in three phyla, the Cycadophyta including only the ginkgo, the Strobilophyta, with the remaining gymnosperms, and the Anthophyta, with all the rest of the trees. Under the last phylum the subclass Amentiferae with the orders Platanales, Urticales, Fagales and Salicales instead of following the conifers, as in the classification used in our common manuals, follows the Sapindales, the order to which the maples belong and is followed by the orders including the dogwoods and viburnums at the end of the series. This arrangement, it is stated in the preface, "will enable one to acquire some idea of the evolution of the higher plants . . . and will also indicate the direction of the general evolutionary movements," which seems to indicate a strictly linear development.

The names used have been changed in a few cases from those in the third edition and in both editions the names are often at variance with those commonly in use. *Quercus rubra* is now *Q. maxima*, while *Q. triloba* of the earlier edition becomes *Q. rubra*. In this case the former names are given as synonyms, but in only one or two other cases are synonyms given. The black cherry, commonly known as *Prunus serotina*, is *P. vir-*

¹ Field Manual of Trees. John H. Schaffner. R. G. Adams and Co. 160 pages. \$1.50.

giniana, and the choke cherry commonly known as *P. virginiana*, is *P. nana*. For each species only one common name is given, though a few others are found in the index. Choosing from the many common names in use is difficult and the names adopted will not satisfy those who have been using others. Those who have been endeavoring to have Gray Birch used for *Betula populifolia* will not be satisfied with American White Birch. And it seems too bad not to use Basswood and Mountain Laurel but to substitute American Linden and Mountain Kalmia. Also it is not to be expected that "common" names will every be commonly used for the 52 species of *Crataegus*. Those who can distinguish the species will find the scientific names easier than Martha's Vineyard Hawthorn, Marshall's Hawthorn, Caughuawga Hawthorn and so on through the list. In fact the common names are given here apparently for consistency, as at the beginning of the genus it is noted that "many of the specific English names are also unsatisfactory."

A few errors are due to the printer; **Cotinus Adans.** instead of **Cotinus** Adans., *Populus grandidentaea*, instead of *P. grandidentata*, **Hamamelis** instead of *Hamamelidaceae* for the family name, and a few other comparatively unimportant mistakes that will confuse no one.

But mistakes are few and the matter of classification is only an incidental thing in the book. Its main purpose is to furnish a simple way of becoming familiar with the trees one meets. This the book does very satisfactorily. The book can be used easily by boy and girl scouts and other young people interested in the out-of-doors but is also suitable for students taking courses on trees in college. All the trees native to the north-eastern United States and Southern Canada as well as the more common introduced trees are included.

The book is attractively bound in red cloth, of a size to fit easily into a coat pocket or handbag and should prove a most valuable companion for those who wish to become familiar with the trees of the roadside and woods.

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